

Attachment B

National On-Farm Energy Initiative (NOFEI) - NRCS will assist eligible producers to specifically address energy conservation through practice implementation or development of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP). During FY 2013, the initiative is designed to assist producers in either of two ways:

1. Identify ways to conserve energy on their farms through an AgEMP Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), also known as an on-farm energy audit, or
2. Provide assistance to implement various recommended measures through the use of conservation practice standards offered through this initiative, such as the Farmstead Energy Improvement (374).

Two Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) are available through the NOFEI:

1. AgEMP – Headquarters (122) – This audit includes the evaluation of energy consumption and potential energy savings applicable to the whole farming operation. This could include shops, storage facilities, pumping plants, and animal feeding facilities.

Note: AgEMP-Headquarters (122) requires that applications must address all lands in the producer's agricultural operation and include the producer's entire operation in the program contract. NRCS staff should advise all applicants that the AgEMP-122 must include all farm operations identified by the Farm Service Agency in the application. Separate applications for the AgEMP-122 from the same participant on different land units will not be approved.

2. AgEMP – Landscape (124) – This audit includes the evaluation of energy consumption and potential energy savings applicable to the actual production of agricultural products. This would include tillage and fertilizer source and application.

The included National Screening Criteria Worksheet must be completed for ALL eligible NOFEI applications (with the exception of CAPs) and the resulting priority entered into Protracts. The intent of the screening worksheet is to place a higher priority on applications for AgEMP CAP development and on those that already have a completed AgEMP. **Power company audits do not meet the criteria of a completed AgEMP.** If an AgEMP has been completed, practices eligible for implementation must be planned in accordance with the recommendations in the on-farm energy audit. High and Medium priority applications will be ranked and funded in order (highest ranked first). Please note, the District Conservationist must sign this worksheet.

Capturing Energy Benefits - An 'Energy Benefits' button is available in Protracts in order to capture the estimated energy savings for certain practices. As part of the NOFEI, this button must be checked 'yes' for all contract items which are being implemented based on the recommendations provided as part of a completed on-farm energy audit. Checking 'yes' will require the user to enter the numeric values for the estimated energy savings from the completed

on-farm energy audit as well as information on green-house gases and air pollutants directly associated with the energy savings.

Note: The 'Energy Benefits' button should be checked 'no' for AgEMP CAP applications since energy savings do not occur unless the recommended measures provided in an AgEMP CAP report are implemented.

For contracts to implement practices under the NOFEI, use either the EQIP Special Initiatives or EQIP Special Initiatives HU payment schedule. For CAP contracts under the NOFEI, use the CAP payment schedule.

The following land uses are eligible for FY13:

Cropland
Pasture
Grazed Range
Headquarters

The following resource concerns have been approved for the NOFEI:

Energy
Inefficient Energy Use – Equipment and Facilities Energy
Inefficient Energy Use – Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

The following core and supporting practices are approved for the NOFEI when they meet the identified criteria:

Note: The designation of core or supporting is solely for use in the screening worksheet.

Core Practices:

Practice Name	Practice Code	Criteria
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Headquarters	122	
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Landscape	124	
Farmstead Energy Improvement	374	A completed AgEMP CAP or equivalent (no more than 5 years old) has been completed and a copy provided to NRCS.
Irrigation Water Management	449	Improvement in irrigation efficiency will result in reduced energy use to deliver water to the field.

Pumping Plant	533	Replacement of a pumping plant will result in a reduction in energy use to supply water to the irrigation system.
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Supporting Practices:

Practice Name	Practice Code	Criteria
Conservation Crop Rotation	328	Nitrogen inputs will be reduced by incorporating a legume into the crop rotation.
Cover Crop	340	Nitrogen inputs will be reduced by incorporating a legume as a cover crop.
Irrigation Reservoir	436	Addition of the reservoir will result in reduced energy use for pumping.
Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	345	Implementation will result in a reduction in on-farm energy use (as documented in the planned and benchmark RUSLE2 run).
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline	430	Installation of a gravity pipeline will eliminate the need to use an existing pump.
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed	329	Implementation will result in a reduction in on-farm energy use (as documented in the planned and benchmark RUSLE2 run).
Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	346	Implementation will result in a reduction in on-farm energy use (as documented in the planned and benchmark RUSLE2 run).
Windbreak/ Shelterbelt Establishment	380	Installation will result in a reduction in heating requirements in animal housing facilities.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
National On-Farm Energy Initiative
NATIONAL SCREENING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2013

A Screening Worksheet must be completed for each eligible EQIP NOFI application.

Instructions:

This screening worksheet must be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP On-Farm Energy Initiative assistance. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis; however, application periods are established for purposes of evaluation, ranking, and funding decisions.

Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits nor approval of a program contract. The original screening worksheet should be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and unless the application is determined to be ineligible, the screening priority (high, medium, and low) must be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed screening worksheet may be provided to the applicant.

Detailed Screening Criteria Worksheet – Complete for each eligible EQIP Applicant

Applicant Name:		County:	
Application No:		Field Office:	
Evaluator Name:		Date:	

Priority Determination for ProTracts – Select One:

High Priority Category:

The application is for an Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124);

Or

The application includes at least 1 “Core” conservation practice necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a recently (within the last 4 years) completed Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.

**High Priority
Status in
ProTracts**

Medium Priority Category:

The application includes 0 “Core” conservation practices but does include at least 1 “Supporting” conservation practice necessary to implement the recommendations identified in a recently (within the last 4 years) completed Agricultural Energy Management Plan (122 or 124) or comprehensive on-farm energy audit meeting ASABE S612 Type 2 standard.

**Medium
Priority Status
in ProTracts**

Low Priority Category: Low Priority Applications will not be ranked.

All other applications

**Low Priority
Status in
ProTracts**

The priority determination of high, medium or low must be recorded in ProTracts for this applicant.

D.C. Approval:		Date Approved:	
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